

John wrote: “That which was from the beginning, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life... we proclaim to you: God is light! If we walk in the light, as God is in the light, we have communion with one another... Friends, let us love one another, for love is of God!

(Lighting of the candles)

***Carol:** “Joy to the World!”No. 40

We hold our candles high on the fourth verse of “Joy to the World,” so that the light that we have received may be seen from afar. As our candles are a sea of light lit from the one Light of Christ, so may we reflect Christ’s light and love in the world.

***Benediction**

**Congregation standing. All hymns will be sung out of the Glory to God Hymnal We will sing the first verse of all carols except Joy to the World. Please remain seated during all of the carols except Joy to the World, in order to reflect on the music and power of these ancient words.*

So That All May Believe, Rejoice and Give Thanks

PASTOR: The Rev. Audrey Hartness Reese

ORGANIST: Nita McMillan

PIANIST: Ann Merritt

MUSICIANS: Trish McCoy, Ellen Stancil, Steve Moore, Laura Ann Moore, Jim McMillan, Krysten Hughes

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2022

7:00 P.M.

Service of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Call to Worship (Responsive):

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came.

You crept in beside us.

And no one knew. Only the few who dared to believe that God might
Do something different.

Will you do the same this Christmas, Lord?

Will you come into the darkness of today's world; not the friendly
darkness but the fearful darkness, in which people have stopped
believing that war will end or that food will come or that the Church
cares? Will you come into our lives, if we open them to you and do
something different? When the world was dark and the city was quiet,
you came.

You crept in beside us. Do the same this Christmas, Lord.

Lighting of the Christ Candle.....Rev. Audrey H. Reese

Carol: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus".....No. 82

First Reading.....Luke 2:1-5

Carol: "Prepare the Way".....No. 106

Second Reading.....Luke 2: 6-7

Carol: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly".....No. 128

Third Reading.....Luke 2:8-12

Carol: "Away in a Manger".....No. 115

Fourth Reading.....Luke 2:13-15

Carol: "Angels We Have Heard on High".....No. 113

Fifth ReadingLuke 2:16-18

Carol: "Silent Night, Holy Night".....No. 122

Sixth ReadingLuke 2:19-20

Choral Response: "O, Holy Night".....Berry

Laura Ann Moore, soloist

Seventh Reading.....John 1: 1-14

Message: "A Feast of Light"Rev. Audrey H. Reese

Choral Response: "Comfort and Joy".....Layton

Krysten Burden Hughes, Soloist

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy
kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give
us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive
our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for
ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Service of Candle Lighting

The God who said, "Let there be light," has caused a light to shine in our
hearts. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "Arise, shine; for your light
has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall
cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise
upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your
light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. " That light is the glory of
God reflected in the fact of Jesus Christ. As our candles are a sea of light lit
from the one light of Christ, so may the church reflect Christ's light and
love in the world.

We extend a warm welcome to all who have come to worship today. If you
are a visitor, we extend a special welcome to you and ask that you sign our
guest register. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to join our
church family in the life and work of this church.